

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 14 and 28 stand rejected under §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Yamazaki et al. (US Pub. No. 2003/0027369 A1).

Claims 30 and 32 stand rejected under §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yamazaki et al. in view of Zucker et al. (US Pat. No. 6,218,682 B1).

Claims 30 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yamazaki et al. in view of Numata et al. (US Pat. No. 5,811,352).

Claims 29 and 31 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-13, 15-27, and 33-36 stand allowed.

Summary of Amendment

Claims 14 and 28 have been rewritten to incorporate the objected dependent claims 29 and 31, respectively, and claims 29 and 31 have been cancelled accordingly. Therefore, no new matter has been added. Claims 1-28, 30, 32-36 are currently pending for consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-13, 15-27, and 33-36 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 29 and 31. By the amendment above, objected claims 29 and 31 have been incorporated into their respective independent claims 14 and 28. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 14 and 28 are now allowable. Moreover,

dependent claims 30 and 32 depend from their amended base claims 14 and 28, respectively, thereby incorporating all the features of their respective base claims. Hence, Applicant submits claims 30 and 32 are now allowable due at least to their dependency to allowable claims 14 and 28, respectively.

CONCLUSION

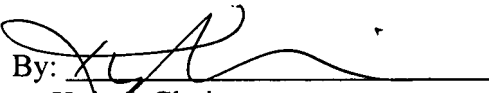
In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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